

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 ACDA-07 /088 W

-----211633Z 124517 /50

R 211335Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5888

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0675

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, MZ

SUBJECT: ALGERIAN REACTION TO MAPUTO CONFERENCE

1. ALGERIAN AMB TO BONN, SAHNOUN, SOUGHT OUT DELOFF AFTER CLOSE OF MAPUTO CONFERENCE TO EXPRESS "GRATITUDE" THAT THE WESTERN POWERS HAD ATTENDED AND HAD MADE SUCH AN OBVIOUS EFFORT TO CONTRIBUTE TO A CONCILIATORY TONE AND CONSTRUCTIVE OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE. AFTER CONGRATULATING THE U.S. ON ITS SUCCESS IN "BRINGING BRITAIN ALON," HE SAID ALL OF AFRICA IS NOW CONVINCED THAT WE ARE SERIOUS IN OUR APPROACH TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS. HE COMPLIMENTED AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S STATEMENT AND THE SEQUENCE OF POLICY MOVES (CAPE TOWN TALKS, VICEPRESIDENT MONDALE'S TALK WITH VORSTER IN VIENNA, ETC.) BY WHICH THE COMMITMENT OF THE U.S. IS BEING DEMONSTRATED.

2. SAHNOUN WAS THE FIRST TO MAKE THE SUGGESTION OF TACTICS FOR ASSOCIATING THE FIVE WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE WHICH
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WE ULTIMATELY FOLLOWED. FURTHERMORE, HE TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREPARING THE WAY FOR THE FORMULA BY TALKING WITH SALIM, CHISSANO AND KAMANA, THE EFFECTIVE LEADERS OF THE CONFERENCE, SO THEY SMOOTHLY FACILITATED AND APPROVED OF THE WAY IN WHICH WE WOUND IT UP. HE ALSO WAS PART OF THE AFRICAN ONSLAUGHT EARLY MAY 21 ON THE ZAMBIANS TO DISSUADE THEM FROM INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION ON RHODESIAN CROSS-BORDER INCURSIONS THAT WAS

EXPLICITLY CRITICAL OF THE UK.

3. SAHNOUN TOLD DELOFF THAT WHILE HE IS RESIDENT IN BONN, HIS GOVERNMENT USES HIM AS THE MAIN ACTION OFFICER ON AFRICAN PROBLEMS, BECAUSE OF HIS LONG OAU BACKGROUND AND UNIVERSAL STATUS IN AFRICA. HE URGED THAT, IF IT WERE USEFUL TO THE U.S., WE KEEP HIM IN FORMED IN BONN. HE OFFERED TO DO HIS BEST TO BE HELPFUL WHENEVER HE COULD.

4. COMMENT: SAHNOUN IS NOT POLITICALLY A PARTICULAR FRIEND OF THE U.S., AT LEAST IN RELATION TO SOME OF OUR PAST POLICIES. HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN PERSONALLY FRIENDLY, HOWEVER, AND STRAIGHT IN HIS TALK WITH U.S. REPS. HE IS ONE OF THE MOST TALENTED SENIOR BUREAUCRATS IN THE AFRICAN BUSINESS, AND DESPITE HIS NORTH AFRICAN IDENTITY HE HAS RETAINED IMPRESSIVE INTIMACY WITH AND THE RESPECT OF ALL CURRENT AFRICAN LEADERS. AND HE APPEARS TO HAVE DECIDED THAT THERE MAY BE SOME HOPE FOR THE U.S. YET.
DE PREE

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